

Minutes of Southeast PTO

February 2, 2004

*** * DRAFT * ***

Call to Order: 7:05pm

In Attendance: Stacey Fulton, Dawn Rawlinson, Norma Fisher Doiron, Margie Ouimette, Monique Brown, Kim O'Keefe, Sue Charron, Linda Sydnie, Edmond Chibeau, Joan Pinney, Jennifer Brisson, Linda Blum

Secretary's Report: Minutes from January 12, 2004 were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was discussed and accepted.

Principal's Report: Norma Fisher-Doiron

The Calendar of Events for Feb/March were passed around and discussed. February 11th is the Invention Convention/Science Fair

Denise Merrill will speak at the next board meeting about how Mansfield Schools are affected by Connecticut's budget.

The March PAC meeting was scheduled to be a presentation from Judy Shay about Cast-A-Spell. Norma Fisher Doiron will try to push that meeting to April so the next PAC meeting can focus on the Play Scape. There is an insurance component to this and it would be beneficial to have some input from the Town.(The April PAC Meeting will focus on the Play Scape)

Mary Attardo who works with the after/before school program has lost her mother in a car accident and her father is in serious condition. The PTO will donate a book from "Stories for Southeast" in memory of her mother.

The school has adopted a Locked Door policy, keeping only the door by the Cafeteria open during the day. Mrs. Fisher Doiron was looking for feedback on this and many parents are in favor of the building being locked throughout the day. The school will continue with this policy for at least another month and Mrs. Fisher Doiron would appreciate any feedback from parents.

Teacher's Report: Monique Brown

Monique has given Natalie Minuitti a list of teachers who will donate games for the Game Night on February 6th.

There will be many student teachers/interns from UCONN and ECSU starting this week at Southeast.

Monique polled the teachers to find out their feelings about two issues that were raised at the last meeting:

Room Parents: 10 yes, 3 no

In-house Directory: 13 yes, 4 no

Margie Ouimette will pursue the Room Parent idea and we will check with Ron Baker as to the reason for the request for the Directory. If it is to be kept in the office, most teachers would not object to it.

Old Business:

Natalie Minuitti was not present to discuss Game Night or the Library Pass survey. Stacey Fulton reported that Natalie would like to receive more responses before she makes a decision as to which pass to purchase. At this point, most families would like to have access to a pass to the Pequot Museum.

30 Bookbags were purchased from Nassiff's so all kindergartners should have Southeast bookbags.

New Business:

Joan Pinney discussed her concerns over the safety of children during on Election Day at Southeast. Elections were supposed to be relocated to the library, but because of parking entrances/exits, this is not possible. Many options were discussed such as:

1. Having an in-service professional day for teachers but giving students the day off.
2. Not having any "specials" that day so that students do not need to go near the gym.

Mrs. Fisher Doiron felt that the staff has always kept the safety of the children as the focus of the day. Her concerns were not with the safety of the children during the school day, but rather in the parking lot. It was agreed that Presidential Elections create more concerns than other elections days. It was decided that the best way to proceed was for Joan Pinney to write a letter to Superintendent Gordon Schimmel expressing the wide range of concerns that parents have.

Play Scape Update:

The Committee is interested in purchasing a playscape piece so that people do not lose enthusiasm for this project. There is currently \$13,000 in that account. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please call Sue Charron. The committee is putting together a "Plan" so there is something concrete to work with.

The Movin On Ceremony was discussed and the group of third grade parents should begin coordinating that in April.

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 pm

Submitted by: Margie Ouimette, Secretary

Our Next Meeting will be Monday, March 1, 2004.